

Reserve's independence. We've seen this time and again.

Earlier this year Financial Services Committee Republicans took up and passed the "FRAT Act", a bill which virtually eliminates any discretion the Fed has to set monetary policy—by forcing it to make decisions in accordance with a mathematical formula and by requiring GAO to investigate any deviation from it—even in the case of changing economic conditions.

Such absurd constraints on the Federal Reserve would inevitably increase uncertainty surrounding policy decisions, and decrease the public's confidence that the Fed can act appropriately in response to new economic realities.

In closing I would reiterate that it is important for the American people to understand that these bills are not designed to address real problems, or a lack of transparency. Rather, the FRAT Act—and the bill before us today—are unnecessary.

They will cause needless uncertainty and undermine the Fed's ability to conduct monetary policy in an independent manner.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADULT CARE OF CHESTER COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adult Care of Chester County on its 30th anniversary of exemplary service in providing exceptional adult day services to the community. This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of Adult Care of Chester County for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 30 years, the men and women of Adult Care of Chester County have dedicated themselves to serving dependent adults, having provided services to over 2,000 individuals and their families during that time. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, Adult Care of Chester County was named 2012 Outstanding Adult Day Center by the National Adult Day Services Association. For three decades, they have admirably pursued their mission to support and empower families in their caregiving experience by providing state-of-the-art care from a highly trained and compassionate staff.

Mr. Speaker, in light of its 30 years of outstanding service, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Adult Care of Chester County for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAMUEL C. LOPEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recog-

nize Samuel C. Lopez. Samuel was born in Brooklyn, New York and graduated from the Bronx Vocational High School. Samuel went on to attend New York State School of Industrial & Labor Relations at Cornell University. After graduating, Samuel worked as a Journeyman Electrician Craftsman with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union Number 3 for over 30 years.

Samuel has always been involved with politics and helping his community. First getting involved in electoral campaigns in New York in the 1970s, he has remained active in politics since moving to Florida in the 1990s. Samuel has participated in numerous national, state, and local elections.

Samuel has taken the lead as Founder, Chairman, and President of numerous organizations including U.T.B., United Third Bridge, Inc. (U.T.B.), the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (FPRHCC), the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic and Minority Empowerment Committee, Brevard County's Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, and the Royal Order of Juan Ponce de Leon Historical V Centennial Celebration Committee.

Samuel is currently a member of the Brevard County School System's Minority Advisory Committee, the Eastern Florida State College Police Advisory Council, the Brevard Community College Minority Partnership, and is a past member of the Brevard County Historical Commission.

Samuel partnered with the Equal Opportunity Commission in bringing 19 successful discrimination lawsuits against the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union Number 3, which resulted in a hiring practice that promotes hiring minorities. Through his work with U.T.B. and the FPRHCC, Samuel spearheaded the effort for the installation of a Juan Ponce de Leon statue and sponsorship wall at the Ponce de Leon Historical Landing Site at Melbourne Beach.

I am happy to honor Samuel C. Lopez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,760,739,788,762.62. We've added \$7,133,862,739,849.54 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

URGING A STRONG FUNDING COMMITMENT TO THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support of this welcome bipartisan reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act—an act first championed by my friend and mentor Senator Chris Dodd. But I also think we need to go further as an institution to support families with the high costs of this critical care.

We all know that, given the realities of today's workforce, quality child care is both a necessity in today's economy, and very expensive. It is often a family's biggest expense, bigger even than their mortgage. Families living in poverty pay almost a third of their income—30 percent—on this care.

The Child Care and Development block grant—CCDBG for short—is the only federal support available to offset the high costs of child care for low-income families. It helps children in working families have access to the quality care they need to learn and thrive in life later on.

But if anything, we are moving in the wrong direction in terms of covering eligible children. In the poorest families in the United States, only one in six eligible children receives child care assistance. And, at a time when nearly one in five working mothers with very young children are working low-wage jobs, our commitment to these families has dwindled.

Since 2006, over 250,000 eligible children have lost access to CCDBG-funded child care. The monthly average of children receiving this aid has fallen to its lowest levels since 1998. And because of budget cuts, many states have seen waiting lists grow and rates for providers plummet. That means less quality care.

I support the new requirements in this reauthorization—They include conforming to state health and safety standards, unannounced on-site monitoring visits, and criminal background checks for providers. But these requirements will cost money. And according to the states, without additional funding, the number of families who receive this aid could be cut by as much as 20 percent.

Mr. Speaker, time and again families all across this nation have told us that we can make a positive difference for them by facilitating access to quality child care.

Countless educational studies have stressed the importance of good care at an early age for children. And countless economic studies have told us that the return on these sorts of investments, in our kids and our future, are amazing.

So I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan reauthorization today. And I also urge them to match this vote with a strong budgetary commitment to CCDBG, and other critical child care investments, in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES
ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COM-
PENSATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week we marked the 13th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attack. It is a day to remember and mourn those we lost, to comfort those who suffer still, and to honor those who responded on that day with courage and determination.

Whenever we talk about 9/11, we have to acknowledge the heroes and heroines of 9/11, both those who lost their lives that day and those who are still sick and dying from the injuries and illnesses related to 9/11. As a Congress, we stood together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol and vowed to never forget.

That vow of never forget comes with an obligation on the part of Congress to ensure that we as a country remember, honor, and care for those who risked their lives to save others that day and those who were caught in the devastation that occurred at Ground Zero, at the U.S. Pentagon, and at Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

A major piece of that promise to never forget was the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that became law in 2011. This legislation established the World Trade Center Health Program to provide medical monitoring and treatment for 9/11-related illnesses as well as a national health program to serve those who were at the Pentagon, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and those who came from around the country to aid in our country's recovery. It also reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to provide for economic losses and harm incurred from the aftermath of the attacks.

Today, there are more than 60,000 responders or survivors who got sick from exposure to the deadly toxins at 9/11, mixes of fuel, glass, asbestos, and all kinds of chemicals that were in the air that day. These thousands are now receiving treatment and monitoring from the Health Program. This also includes over 2,900 people in the World Trade Center Health Program who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Since 9/11 more than 800 New York Fire Department members and more than 550 New York Police Department personnel are struggling with serious 9/11-related illnesses.

We have already lost over 70 firefighters and 60 New York Police Department officers who have died from their 9/11-related illnesses over the past 13 years. These are people who got sick while working on rescue and recovery, and they have died because of their exposure.

These individuals with 9/11-related illnesses need continued specialized medical monitoring and care. It is unfair to cut them out of medical care and economic compensation simply because they did not get sick soon enough.

As it stands, the Zadroga Act is set to expire in October 2015, yet the medical and economic crises of sick 9/11 responders and suffering survivors will not end in 2 years. They will only get worse over time. Research shows significantly higher rates of cancer among the 9/11 population, a disease with a long latency period.

That is why I have introduced, along with PETER KING and JERRY NADLER, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act. This legislation would reauthorize the programs for 25 years and fulfill that promise to never forget.

We are joined in support by a bipartisan group of 37 Members from all over the country. First responders and volunteers came from every corner of America to help and aid in the recovery. Others who were present on 9/11 have since moved to other areas of the country. The World Trade Center Health Program includes participants from 429 of the 435 congressional districts. This means that in almost every Member's district, there are constituents who are being monitored or who are being treated under the World Trade Center Health Program.

We must continue these Zadroga Act programs that are vital to the sick and dying, those whom we said we will never forget.

SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE,
QUALITY, FLEXIBLE CHILD CARE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the expansion of resources for the Child Care Development Block Grant program.

As a mother of a 5-year old, I understand the need for affordable, quality, and accessible child care. The Child Care Development Block Grant of 2014 extends the program's original intent of supporting low-income working families by ensuring that children are in a setting that will keep them safe and encourage healthy development.

This reauthorization is a solid step to help families meet the expense of child care as it includes ambitious new changes that are important for a high quality child care system. However, the sweeping new requirements called for under this Act are not adequately funded. As states implement the new requirements envisioned in this legislation without additional resources, I fear the result will be that eligible children and families may lose access to child care assistance.

To successfully implement the much-needed improvements included in this legislation, we must re-double our efforts to increase mandatory and discretionary funding in order to meet the new standards set out under this program. As the federal government continues to increase expectations for child care providers and programs without new funding, I am concerned that already high turnover may be exacerbated and poverty wages for child care providers will remain the norm.

Families in poverty are spending 30% or more of their income on child care. Child care costs are simply unaffordable for many workers in low-wage jobs. With stagnant wages, this leaves many low-income working families struggling to find a safe place to care for their children. The average annual cost of full-time care for one child can be nearly \$4,000 to over \$16,000, especially in areas with high costs of living, like Los Angeles County.

A new National Women's Law Center analysis of state and national data shows that

more than half of mothers who have very young children and work in low-wage jobs are raising children on their own; half are working full time; and over one-third are poor. They are disproportionately African-American or Hispanic.

I urge the Administration, in its implementation of this Act, to balance the requirements placed on states, child care providers, and an already under-resourced and stressed child care system with a realistic assessment of the new resources made available for implementation.

Expanding access to affordable quality child care is about the safety, economic development, and services that working families everywhere in the U.S. deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIR-
GINIA TRANSPORTATION COM-
MISSION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate my friends and colleagues at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) on the occasion of the Commission's 50th anniversary. When it was first created, the Commission's primary task was to develop and manage a transportation system for Northern Virginia, but over the years, it has evolved and accomplished so much more than that.

NVTC has become a champion for commuters across the region, an advocate for sustainable transit funding, and a leading voice on transportation policy throughout the Commonwealth. One shudders to think what Northern Virginia might look like if not for the persistent efforts of the Commission to bring local, state, and federal leaders together to promote transit solutions that have made commuting more convenient and removed cars from our roads. Just as important, NVTC has become a training ground for staff and elected leaders, helping to inform policy makers and the public about the value of and urgent need for investing in transit choices. For example, the ranks of the Commission's past chairmen include our colleague, Representative JIM MORAN, who served on NVTC during his tenure as the Mayor of Alexandria, my predecessor, Tom Davis, who served as chair during his tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and, yes, me. I was pleased to serve on the Commission throughout my tenure on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors.

Let me take just a few moments to recount some of the major milestones that have shaped the success of the NVTC and the growth of our region. Two major actions in 1964 laid the groundwork for NVTC to flourish. First, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed the Urban Mass Transit Act, which pumped \$375 million over three years into public transit projects across the nation. The Virginia General Assembly followed by creating the Northern Virginia Transportation District to plan and construct a transportation network that promoted safety, convenience, and economic growth.

The Commission did not waste time, starting work on a rapid transit system that first year.